

MAY, 1957

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N.S.S. NEWS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY



Vera Lynn
S.O.S. Vice Chairman (see page 4)

LETTERS

The Children's Progress at Irton Hall

Dear Editor,

I hope that I might be allowed to convey a message to the readers of this paper who are interested in the great humanitarian work of educating and rehabilitating Spastics.

As you are well aware, the Spastic is often one of the most severely handicapped of all handicapped people. Those with enough intelligence and drive to benefit from education and training, frequently have the heavy burden of frustration to contend with; and those less fortunate in mental ability have a greater struggle to achieve even a small amount of independence.

Any who have visited our Projects, and who have seen the happiness which has been brought into the lives of the handicapped, cannot fail to be impressed with our worthwhile endeavours. Parents who have never enjoyed a moment's rest, until their children entered one of the Society's schools, have blessed the N.S.S. for having afforded them a much-needed breathing space. The blessing, however, has been twofold, when they have witnessed the improvement in their children.

Outstanding Improvements

At Irton Hall School, the most outstanding improvement has been a social one. The children, by living in a small community, have learned the give-and-take of life; they have become more independent in the short while they have been in residence, because, under skilled guidance, they have been encouraged to act for themselves in as many ways as possible.

Experiments in procedure are continually taking place, as we learn to adapt one technique after another, to the constantly changing needs of the children.

At Irton Hall, the children have the double handicap of Spasticity, and difficulty in learning. In addition, there are the complications of deafness, near-blindness, and lack of speech; a few are confined to chairs for most of the day. But their spirit knows no bounds.

Squeals of delight, or gay laughter, greet one at every turn. Every tiny success, whether learning to do up a

button, or building a tower of bricks, managing to feed oneself, or writing one's name—whatever the achievement—is noted by the adults, is praised and rewarded with approval and further encouragement. Hence success follows upon success.

On the physical side, little miracles seem to be happening week by week. At the beginning of the term, Keith could do little more than babble. With a hearing aid, and special therapy, he can now talk, and make his wants known; he can understand much of what is said. His whole outlook has changed for the better.

"I Can Walk"

Carol is only six. When she came, her feet were turned round pointing almost backwards. An operation corrected this. To-day she walked a few paces, holding my hands. She keeps crying delightedly, "I can walk! I can walk!", and she wants to show everybody she can.

I can multiply these stories of hope and fulfilment-yet-to-come, many times. The N.S.S. generously assisted by the local Group, are giving these children hope, and a chance of success in improving their lot. The handicaps are too great for these children to be accepted in other schools. But Irton Hall is specially catering for their needs. Every child deserves his place in the sun.

Yours sincerely,

A. LUBRAN, F.R.S.A., M.R.S.T.,
Principal, Irton Hall School,
Holmrook, Cumberland.

What a Mother Says:

Dear Editor,

I would like to express the appreciation of my husband and myself for the very good work being done at Irton Hall School. After a wonderful welcome from the staff, our daughter Jennifer settled down to what proved to be a very happy first term at Irton Hall.

She has returned home looking very well, stronger in body, and with much improved speech, and showing signs of being able to learn about letters and figures. We have never seen so much improvement in so short a time.

Many, many, heart-felt thanks to the N.S.S. and to the staff at Irton Hall.

Yours very sincerely,

DOROTHY J. WOOD.
Thornhill, Dewsbury.

N.S.S. Wall Display

Dear Editor,

I am returning herewith the pictures you sent for our wall display for the National Spastics Society. They have been most helpful to us in our efforts, which have resulted in the collection of over £36 for the Society.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

E. W. HILL,
Roxeth Manor Secondary Boys' School
Harrow, Middlesex.

Editor's Note:

This wall display is available for loan, free of charge, from the Society. Interested persons, please apply.

Send Your Hobbies to Slough

Dear Editor,

Every August there is a Grand Holiday Carnival in Agars Plough, one of the Eton Playing Fields. It is held in aid of the local "All Good Causes Fund", and attracts thousands of visitors from all over Southern England.

The Slough Spastic Group has accepted a stand in the Hobbies Exhibition, and we are hoping to show visitors the wonderful achievements of Spastics in all kinds of handicraft, needlework, and painting. We have circularised Groups in the Southern area, but would be grateful for any contributions from individuals or friends who have not received this notice.

If anyone has a suitable item for display on our stand we would be very pleased to hear about it. We will return articles on loan, or we will try to sell items if it is desired. The Carnival is from August 3rd-10th, so we would like offers of help to come soon. All promised articles should reach us by July 1st if possible, and those to be returned will be sent back after the 10th of August.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. WEBBER, *Hon. Secretary*,
62, Aldin Avenue,
Slough.

Shut-in's Day June 2nd.

Dear Editor,

The first Sunday of June, (June 2nd) is a day devoted to cheering the house-bound and bedfast people, whose world of living within walls does not give them the happier and wider life

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that most able-bodied people can enjoy. For some years it has been keenly felt the need of such a day, when it can be shared by these brave ones who do not expect charity, nor ask for sympathy; but how much they do enjoy warm cheery friendship.

A friendly call, words of cheer, a letter or flowers, or some small gift. What they can mean when coming unexpectedly from some unknown friend. These things can take so little time to do, yet give so many bright hours of remembrance.

Would You Help ?

Would you help to encourage others to give such joy and return of faith in life, by doing their small bit to help this day to be a success. The blind, the aged, and the house-bound, all are included in this Day of Remembrance and friendly linking.

This Association exists solely for the purpose of promoting "Shut-In's Day", and does not interfere nor compete with clubs or organisations for the handicapped. It is concerned with establishing the one day each year for helping the house-bound, encouraging all religious centres to hold some part of their service on that day for the sick, and linking the Shut-In to a wider world beyond their walled-in existence.

Hospitals, homes for old people, centres for disabled persons, homes for incurables; all these doorways would joyfully receive more new friends, gifts, and letters.

Yours sincerely,
(Mrs.) VERA WESTMORLAND,
Secretary,

The Shut-In's Day Association of
England, 11, Cherry Garden Avenue,
Folkestone, Kent.

Chess as a Hobby

Dear Editor,

As a Spastic, I have had to hunt a long while for a suitable hobby. Those which required bodily activity, I found at an early age, were beyond me, and the frustration involved in attempting them outweighed any pleasure.

Mere watching is a sterile occupation, and is only justified by watching experts. So a game had to be found. The only one which is completely satisfactory is chess, which provides a sound training in the assets most needed for a Spastic—concentration and judgment.

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Chess has the further advantage of justness. There is no element of luck involved—you win or lose entirely by your own efforts. As an aid to mental and physiological discipline, the game is invaluable, but more than that, it releases the urge for fighting. If that instinct has a complete and satisfactory outlet, quite a lot of inner tension and frustration becomes resolved.

The physical requirements when playing chess are minimal, and great pleasure is derived from the battle of one mind against the other. There are many fruitful contacts made through chess, even if it is postal. This provides a fine outlet to those who are house-bound.

Yours sincerely,

PETER MOORE,
15, Avenall Mansions,
Avenall Road,
Highbury, N.5.

Praise for Printing Scheme

Dear Editor,

As I was able to see a demonstration of the Adana Printing Machine, and hear an outline of the Christmas Card Scheme given by Mr. Hargreaves and Mr. Chapman at Headquarters, I felt I would like to write regarding it.

Having seen these machines and used them, I feel I must say what a wonderful advance will be made possible to many of the, hitherto, unemployable Spastics. The simplicity of the machine has to be seen to be really believed.

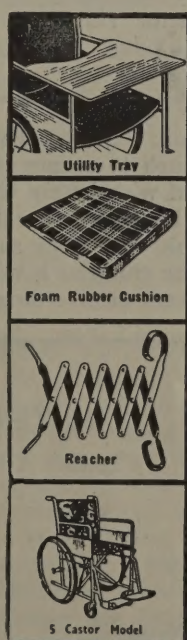
The proposed rate of payment seems exceedingly fair, and the incentive and self-respect that will be achieved by this scheme will be, I am sure, beyond all our hopes. Difficulties there may be, snags with individuals, but the hope and challenge of this new adventure will more than compensate.

As I am responsible for 33 older Spastics ranging from 15 to 55 years, I have been very conscious of the need of a means to teach them to have some form of independence—trying all forms of craft, and many other aspects—but, by and large, the snags were too great. So imagine my joy at this new turn of events. I can hardly wait to present the "picture" to the committee of this association.

May I also mention my appreciation of the courtesy, help, and kindness extended to me when I visited Headquarters.

Yours truly,

DOUGLAS SILVERSTONE,
Youth and Club Organiser,
Bristol Spastic Association.



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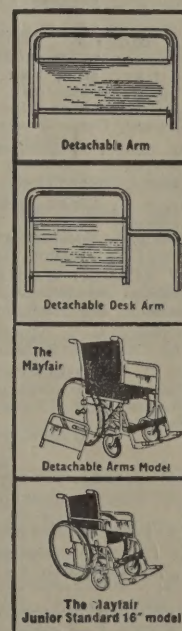


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OPINION

Of the 30,000 Spastics estimated to be in Britain, 10,000 are of school age. All these children are, by no means, being catered for, but they have a much better chance of getting treatment than in previous years.

What of the 20,000 adults, young and old, whose formative years have passed, and who, as the Warden of Prested Hall points out with blunt truthfulness, do not have the appeal of children? This is a huge problem, bristling with complications. From every side comes the cry "What is being done about the adolescent group—the ageing Spastics—the heavily handicapped, either physically or mentally?"

What is to be done? Is it best to concentrate on supplying training for those whose handicaps are lighter, thus giving them the extra little boost which will make them employable? Should one concentrate on the people who are so heavily handicapped that, undoubtedly, the rest of their lives will be spent in some sort of communal centre?

In the latter case, there are many Spastics ending their lives in unsuitable and unhappy surroundings — miserable, and misunderstood; people who, although they will always be in need of care, would have much happier lives among companions with similar handicaps, as at Prested Hall.

In this issue there is a review of what is being done by the N.S.S. to tackle this vast problem. The work done has undeniable value to the

Spastics for whom it is catering, and is a basis for future developments. The number of Spastics concerned is minimal in comparison with the size of the problem, and it is obvious that, although the N.S.S. is tackling it bravely, the Society cannot cope alone.

Many of the Spastics at the national centres, particularly in Prested Hall and Coombe Farm, have been 'rescued' from long-stay wards in chronic sick hospitals. There is the example of the 37-year old woman who went to Prested Hall after 20 years in one of these wards. After 18 months of occupational therapy and physiotherapy, she was accepted as a trainee in a sheltered workshop.

This is an exceptional case, but it does indicate that even in the heavily handicapped adult Spastic, some potentialities exist, awaiting development. It seems that unless some voluntary body like the N.S.S. recognises those potentialities, they must remain forever dormant; the helpless Spastic costing the community, in terms of hard cash, far more than would the treatment that should have been given.

It has been pointed out before that no generalisation can be made about the Cerebral Palsied, and this is as true of adults as of children; their handicaps, physical and mental, their potentialities, and their drive, all differ. But everyone should be given the chance to make the most of his personal capabilities, and to find full expression for their individual qualities.

Our Cover: Vera Lynn, hardworking vice-chairman of the S.O.S. has, since its inception, done much to ensure the success of S.O.S. events. At present she is being inundated with letters from people who feel that their country house or hotel would be suitable for the S.O.S. Holiday Home. Offers, so far, have not been suitable for, Vera says, "We are looking for a really special place. For many of the children it will be their first glimpse of the sea-side, and we want to give them the holiday of their lives".

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Editor: Shirley Keene

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COUNTRYWIDE

REPORTING NATIONAL NEWS ABOUT SPASTICS

Groups Get £10,000

The N.S.S. has just distributed £10,000 to its affiliated Groups. This is a proportion of the income from the last Christmas Seals Campaign, and will assist the Groups' local projects.

Readers will recall that the last seals booklet had a space where donors could indicate to which project they wished their gift to be allocated. 75 per cent of the gift went to the chosen project, and 25 per cent to the Medical Research Fund.

It is anticipated that many more Groups will qualify for allocation from the next Seals Campaign, as there are plans to open further local centres and clinics this year.

Yo Ho Ho!

and Four Bottles of Rum

'Jeroboam' is another word to add to the N.S.S. vocabulary, and was introduced by Mr. C. A. Bloomfield, Assistant Manager of the Sugar Manufacturers' Association (of Jamaica) Limited.

When visiting this country last year, Mr. Bloomfield was so intrigued by the 'Pint Pot' pennies he saw on many bar counters that, on behalf of his organisation, he has offered a jeroboam of rum—as a contribution to a celebratory party—to every landlord who collects £100 worth of pennies.

The jeroboams are supplied empty—to be filled by the licensee himself,

who will recover the cost from the Sugar Manufacturers' Association in London. The jeroboam will carry a little silver shield, on which the date it was broached will be inscribed, and will be retained by the landlord as a permanent souvenir.

What is a jeroboam?—it is a large,



Courtesy South Wales Echo.

N.S.S. Director, Dr. C. P. Stevens, at Craig-y-Parc's prize giving. Prizes were not given for orthodox subjects but class progress, and one for social progress—to a little girl for overcoming her shyness. Highlights of the afternoon was a performance by the school's percussion band.

decorative bottle containing the equivalent for four standard bottles.

Dudley Seeks Site

Mr. N. Fuge, Chairman of Dudley and District Spastic Group, said at the Group's annual general meeting, that the past year was one of foundation laying, and that this year would see the building up of the organisation.

He said the problem of finding a permanent headquarters for Spastic children had been partly solved. The Group has been given the use of a large hut by Mitchells and Butlers of Wolverhampton, but a suitable site for it had yet to be found, although

negotiations were in progress for a plot of land at Holly Hall.

N.S.S. Research Director for World Commission

Dr. Paul E. Polani, M.D., M.R.C.P., N.S.S. Director of Research, has accepted the invitation of the President of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples, in the U.S.A., to become a member of the World Commission of Cerebral Palsy.

Spastics in the Swim

During this past winter, local Spastic children have been taking exercise in Cranwell swimming pool, helped by the Grantham Rotarians, and instructed by senior members of the Grantham Swimming Club.

One child, Ann Jenkins, has received a special trophy, donated by the Rotary Club, for the great determination she has shown in successfully swimming the width of the pool.

In order that these physically handicapped children may be encouraged to continue the good work started by the Rotarians, the Grantham Swimming Club is offering them free membership.

Visitors for Crewe

Twenty-two delegates from neighbouring groups visited the Crewe and District Spastics Society's Centre recently. They saw the various appliances acquired to help and educate Spastics, and showed great interest in the work being done by them.

"Wander" Machine

Two months ago, 3-year old John Parry, a Spastic, could only crawl on the floor of his house at Dennes Place, West Shore, Llandudno, and then a "wander" machine arrived. This was the invention of 44-year old engineer, Mr. Bob Owen of Tanybryn, Carmel, Anglesey, and was the seventh machine he has built and given free of charge.

in five years, to help handicapped children to walk.

This £17 machine (a steerable and adjustable chair) made in a tiny garage, has been the turning point in the lives of little John's parents. In the words of his mother, "Our John has only had it a few weeks. If he improves as fast as he has done in that time, we will soon be able to hand back the machine for the benefit of others".

Rescued from Frankie's Fans

10-year old Spastic girl, Jennifer Young of Sandringham Road, Sunderland, was rescued from a thousand-strong, screaming, teenager mob of Frankie Vaughan fans, when the singer opened a new showroom in the town recently. It took her rescuer, Mrs. Rita Levy, ten minutes to get her wheelchair to a safe place. Said Jennifer, "I wasn't a bit frightened".

Very Senior Football

Eleven stalwart grandpa's of Cheadle Hulme, whose combined ages totalled 700 years, challenged youngsters to a football match on Easter Monday, in aid of the Lady Isabel Derby Clinic for Spastic children, which is run by the Stockport and District Spastics Society.

Not only did they train for the big event three months beforehand, but they ensured that their cheer-leaders (1,500 old-age pensioners from Cheshire and Lancashire) were present to rouse them to victory.

Oldham's Oscar

Mr. Harry Higgins, Secretary of the Oldham and District Spastics Society, is a nominee for the Oldham Oscar—

awarded to any Oldham person who has performed good deeds or a public service at his own expense.

Mr. Higgins has made special chairs for Spastic children, and visits the Society's new clinic twice a day to keep it heated.

Dewsbury A.G.M.

Dewsbury Chairman, Mrs. D. J. Wood, presenting the report of the executive committee at the annual meeting, added a plea for school-leavers to think of physiotherapy and speech therapy when looking for a



Courtesy Reading Mercury.

The pile of pennies in the Mitre Hotel, Reading, was so vast that Wilfred wasn't quite sure where to start. Standing eight feet tall on the bar it was worth about £100, and was, Wilfred said, the largest he had ever seen. Mabel, who was with him on this pint-potting expedition, agreed. Before being presented with the cheque by the licensee, Mr. J. T. Wallace, Wilfred told the 'regulars' something about the work of the N.S.S. and the increase in the number of centres. He told them, "It is all very well for us to talk about what we have done, but we could not have done anything if it had not been for you".

career. She said there was a national shortage of trainees for this type of work.

The annual report revealed that enquiries for the renting of suitable premises for a social centre had been unfruitful. However, further developments in a scheme for a handicapped

persons' centre, organised by the Dewsbury and District League of Friendship, had taken place.

It was reported that there were 31 Spastic children on the register, and Dr. M. W. Arthurton said that a survey had shown that the educables among them were well catered for.

N.S.S. Gets Club Double

Tony Brent, popular singing star, has donated to the N.S.S. the fees he received for appearing in a cabaret at the Cote D'Azur club on Friday, 12th April, and the club has doubled the amount.

Kerb-side Mile of Pennies

From the pile to the mile of pennies. This was the idea of Mr. A. Pratt of the "Queen and Albert" public house, who organised the fête held by the Wycombe and District Spastics Society, on Easter Monday, in aid of the new home for Spastics, at Holmer Green.

The kerb around the village green at Wooburn was the main feature of the fête, and in order to raise £220 the completed mile would bring, four round trips would need to be made.

Alas, the rain prevented the full mile target being reached, but about £150 was handed over to the Wycombe Group. Mr. Pratt said that he greatly appreciated the assistance from "Mary", the collecting doll.

Urmston Youngsters

Nearly £108 was collected by the Urmston and District Spastic Group at Manchester United's Football ground recently. This sum will be added to by the proceeds of the 'bring and buy' sale, which the junior members of the Group are organising.

Croydon's Annual House-to-House

Voluntary helpers are making house-to-house collections in order to raise a target figure of £2,000 for the Croydon Spastics Centre.

Bargain Radiogram for Spastic

19-year old Victor Davidson, a Spastic, of Mill Close, Upper Gornal, has an energetic and enterprising mother. Not only did she wheel him six miles to see the Queen, who visited Dudley recently, but she also queued for 12 hours outside the new branch of a radio shop, where television sets

and radiograms were being offered cheaply to the first six customers. Third in the queue, she managed to buy a radiogram for five guineas. "It was worth the wait. Victor is not able to get about much, and this will help to lighten his burden", says Mrs. Davidson.

Jumble

Nine year old Lesley Jay, helped by her two younger brothers, and her friend Joan Ridings, aged 7, has been running a jumble sale outside their house in Howard Lane, Denton, in aid of Spastic children.

Since Christmas they have been collecting comics, old toys, and clothes from relations and friends in preparation for the sale. Lesley's first sale was staged in 1955 after meeting a Spastic boy. She explained, "I like to do it because it's helping children".

Spastic Scout at Windsor

Big thrill for Michael Royle, a 15 year old Spastic Scout, of High Street, Haydon Wick, was when he saw the Queen take the salute at the march-past of the Queen's Scouts, at Windsor Castle on St George's Day. He was one of the 12 handicapped Scouts, from the whole of England, chosen to attend this parade.

Michael took part in the recent bob-a-job campaign, and in his wheelchair, he was able to earn 15s. for Scout funds by cleaning brass and polishing shoes.

Rock 'n' Roll in London, N.W.

The walls of a living room at 40, Ashford Court, the home of Mrs. E. Chalfin, shake, rattle and roll these days. And no wonder—a local group of teenage Spastics is 'going to town' in a truly skiffle manner. The wash-board, guitar, maracas, and drums pound out the exciting beat as the skiffle group gets 'in the groove' at the weekly rehearsal.

As Mrs. Chalfin says, "It is worthwhile to see the youngsters enjoying themselves. Spastics enjoy jazz and rock 'n' roll just like all other teenagers".

Hatters' Pub Party

At the ceremonial knocking over of a pint-pot at the Greyhound Hotel, near Stockport, a slight deviation was that all the gentlemen participating wore hats—as a mark of respect. The pile-

driver was Mr. Joseph Begley, head of the local hat manufacturing company, and the 'regulars' all wore the latest "Mambo" flat top hat in his honour. The pile, worth £50, went to Stockport's funds for its school and clinic.

Brains Trust

Dr. Ian McKeith and Dr. Paul Polani were the experts who answered questions at the brains trust organised



Douglas Martin with the tape-recorder he uses for his letters to and from America.

Courtesy Evening Advertiser.

by the Ilford Group. Questions covering a wide range were asked by many of the parents who attended.

When asked if the brain has a fixed period of development, Dr. Polani answered that the gross development stops at about 5 years. However, there was no reason why growth in the finer portion of the brain should terminate. In the mentally handicapped person, the brain does develop, but not to the fullest extent. When asked the percentage of severely handicapped children, Dr. Polani said that 25 per cent were

ineducable, 25 per cent very severely handicapped, and one in eight severely handicapped, both mentally and physically.

He's Got it Taped

Mr. Douglas Martin, of Avenue Road, Swindon, has been Spastic since his birth 31 years ago. He could not stand until he was eight, was unable to

go to an ordinary school, and has never had a job. Many men of lesser calibre would have been discouraged by these misfortunes, but not so Douglas.

Although he cannot hold a pen, or type, he is an expert with a tape-recorder, and for the past three years has maintained a transatlantic correspondence with a family in Abilene, Texas. It all started when he met Fred Blakeney, who was stationed at the U.S. Air Force hospital at Burderop Park, near Swindon. Before he returned to the States, Douglas asked him that if he should meet anyone similarly disabled to get them to write to him.

Two months later he received his first letter—from a Miss Lillie Fanning in Abilene, who had had polio when she was eight months old, and was confined to her wheelchair. Now they exchange tape-recorded messages every six weeks. When the spool from America arrives, he listens to what his friends say, erases the message, makes a recording, and then sends the tape back again. This unusual means of communication is proof of Douglas Martin's ingenuity and indomitable spirit.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Being the parent of a Spastic myself, I hate having to criticise other parents, but sometimes there is cause to do so.

One criticism, and a common one I'm afraid, is this question of apathy towards the work of the Group. Many parents seem to take all the wonderful facilities that are now available in Group centres for granted, and seldom take even a small share of the work that is involved.

I have heard that some parents even take their non-handicapped children to the centres to be looked after; quite often by voluntary workers, who have enough to do anyway. Others won't trouble to send their Spastic child unless transport is provided; quite often the distance to be travelled is quite small.

I know of another parent who has persuaded her Spastic son to return home, against his will, from one of our national centres. The only excuse offered is that he is "so far from home". How selfish this is, and how thoughtless. Ministries and local authorities have been persuaded to help our work with much needed finance, and here are parents wasting it all. Not only that, but throwing away what might well be the Spastic's last chance of ever being independent. I do feel very strongly about this sort of attitude.

HALIFAX

This Group has recently acquired rooms for social purposes, and has also sent large, and welcome donations to the N.S.S., Hawksworth Hall, and Daresbury Hall accounts.

CROYDON

I paid a long-overdue visit to Croydon Group some time ago, and was pleased to tell its members of how other Groups are progressing, and also gave a brief picture of some of the national projects. Croydon operates what was one of the first local treatment centres in the country, and what is now certainly one of the most expensive—costing more than £7,000 a year, raised by voluntary funds.

Much of the recent, heavy increase in cost, is due to their willingness to give treatment to children from other places in Surrey, and the London area.

Reported by George Lauder

Some of the other Groups, whose children are helped, send contributions, which are very gratefully received.

CENTRAL SURREY

This was another Surrey Group I had not visited for quite a long time, so was glad to speak at a public meeting in Redhill recently, and took two films along, also. There was an excellent attendance, and lots of good questions. Some of these were answered by our new Director, Dr. Stevens, who had come along, unofficially, to see how our Group meetings worked.

I was very glad to meet afterwards, Miss Vera Dean, a Spastic, who wrote the book "Three Steps Forward", which was recently serialised in John Bull, and is to be published shortly.

The annual general meeting of this Group was held in the very modern Council Chamber of the Epsom Town Hall, and was presided over by the Mayor of Epsom, who is the Group's President. Talk of the Society's projects, and the showing of the film "Door to Freedom" greatly impressed the Mayor and Mayoress, who promised to give all the help they could at all times.

The Group has been able to help in the day clinic, by kind permission of Dr. Anderson, at a cost of £12 per annum. Six Spastics are receiving speech training, which is costing the Group about £100 per annum.

The Group has been able to help three of its adult Spastics to set up a printing business, and with the help of three of the ladies, much excellent work is now being done. They have printed a great deal of letterheads, cards, and other smaller items for the



N.S.S. headquarters. We can recommend their work in this connection,

NORTH STAFFS

In company with Mr. Caddell, chairman of the Group, I visited the offices of the Medical Officer of Stoke, Dr. Hamilton. There was an hour's most interesting discussion about the pattern, and progress, of the N.S.S. development. Also reviewed were several local problem cases. Altogether the Medical Officer was most helpful.

A large house in Hanley has been bought by the Group for a centre to provide treatment, occupation, and for social purposes. It is hoped to get on with minor alterations and decorations very shortly, and to have the centre open within six months.

Next morning, we visited Stafford to have some interesting discussion with the Staffordshire Medical Officer. Once again, a clearer picture of the N.S.S. overall pattern of things evoked a great interest. North Staffs Group has always been on very good terms with the Medical Officers concerned, especially in Stoke.

SOUTHAMPTON

I was able, for the first time, to visit the Southampton Day Centre. This was quite an occasion, because the new treatment room, which has been built on to the original building, was having its official opening. £100 worth of excellent equipment was handed over by a local lady, who gave this in memory of her late husband. Dr. Preston, under whose care many of the Spastic children come at the hospitals, and who is now consultant at the centre, formally accepted the equipment on behalf of the Group.

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The centre comprises a very spacious, prefabricated building, with a small kitchen, toilet, and telephone booth, and of course, recently this new treatment room. It is brightly decorated, and most lavishly equipped with all that a centre needs. Most of this equipment has been donated. The building itself, which cost £1,000, was paid for by the local speedway supporters, and the land which is within the speedway area, was donated by Mr. Knott, the speedway manager.

On Monday and Wednesday mornings, and Thursday all day, the children attend, a mid-day meal being provided on the Thursday. Transport, which costs £8 per week, is laid on by the Group.

A youth group meets once a week, on Monday evenings. Mrs. Welch, and her three voluntary workers, are doing a very fine job indeed, and the centre is a credit to all concerned. It started in a small way nearly four years ago, in a dancing studio, loaned free by Mrs. Turner, principal of the Southampton School of Ballet, and has gone on developing ever since.

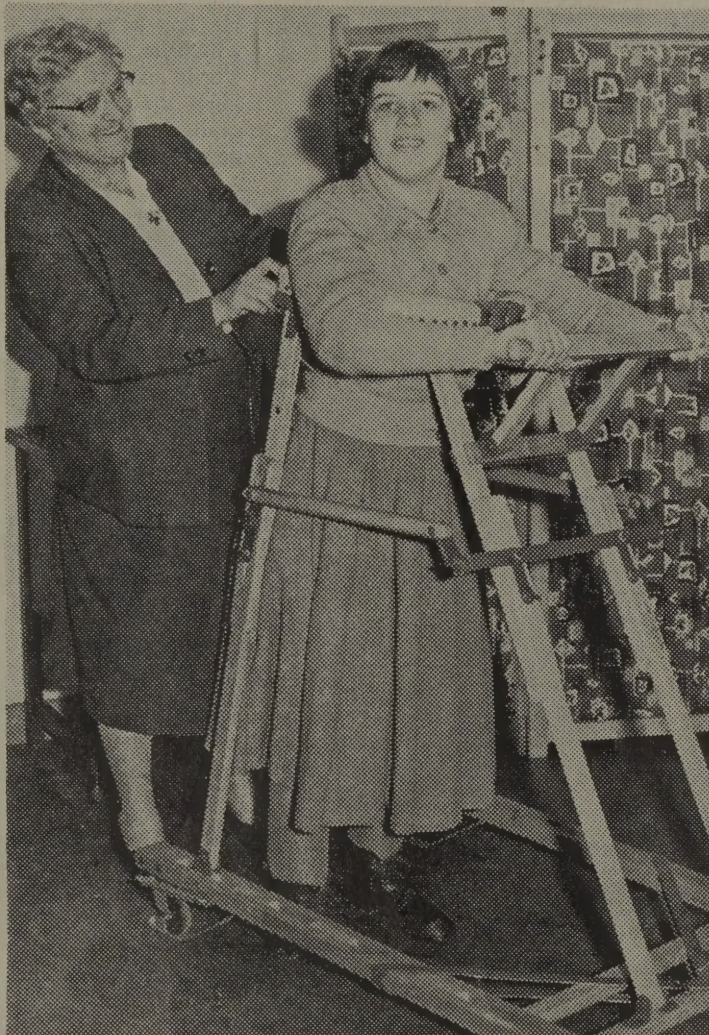
The Group has had much financial help from the crews of the liners, Caronia and Mauretania, and one "doll" alone in the Saxone Shoe Shop has collected over £700.

The Southampton local authority opened in Astor House in September 1956, a small class for Spastic child-

ren. Seven children, who formerly attended the centre, now receive full-time education here.

SOUTH EAST LONDON

With Mr. Langley, the new South East Regional Officer, I visited 'Charlton House', to meet the members of the Group, and explain how the new regional plan will assist Groups. There were lots of questions, some of them very tricky indeed; but afterwards we were glad to know that everyone was



Yvonne Harrison, 16 years old member of the Southampton Youth Club, takes a lesson in walking with the help of Hon. Organiser, Mrs. L. Welch.

Courtesy Southern Daily Echo.

pretty well satisfied. Mr. Limmings is doing an excellent welfare job, and many Spastics have cause to be grateful to him.

ABERYSTWYTH

Although there is not a large population at Aberystwyth,—only about 10,000,—and Cardiganshire is a

sparsely populated county, a fairly new society for handicapped children has started here, and the officers were very much interested in knowing more about the N.S.S. and its work.

Mr. Bevan, the Secretary, says that they intend to seek out, in the county, all the Spastic and other handicapped children, and expect some help in this connection from the authorities. I look forward to seeing eventually a special committee dealing with Spastics, and becoming members of the N.S.S.

ST. ALBANS

In company with Mr. Lemarie of the Hertfordshire Society, I attended the annual general meeting of this most northerly of the Hertfordshire Groups. Progress has been rather slow and difficult here, until this year. Now the position looks much more encouraging. There was a record attendance at the meeting, which was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. As they are particularly interested in "Sherbards", and other national projects, most of my talk was devoted to these centres.

NEWPORT, (I.O.W.)

At a meeting of this very strong committee, I was pleased to hear of the splendid progress which has been made. Firstly, in raising approximately £2,000 in the past year, and secondly, in pressing forward with the plans for a school and treatment centre on the Isle of Wight. It is hoped it will be similar to the Portsmouth school, and will cost about £12,000, which the Group is pledged to find. Hospital board and education authorities will provide the maintenance of this scheme.

BOURNEMOUTH

At a meeting in the ancient borough of Poole in Dorset, which is part of the Bournemouth Group area, Dr. Parkin, the Assistant Medical Officer, was chairman. He showed a lively interest in the Spastics' cause, and was most anxious to give all the help possible to the Bournemouth Group. In fact, he would like to see the centre in Poole, instead of Bournemouth.

I spent the afternoon at the day centre, which is running very smoothly these days, although accommodation is very cramped, indeed. Both Bournemouth and Poole authorities provide the necessary transport for the children

ADULT SPASTICS

Many inquiries reach the N.S.S. on the theme "What is being done for adults?" The next few pages are devoted to the work being done by the N.S.S. in this field. (Also see Opinion—Page 4).

Prested Hall By N.S.S. News Reporter

Prested Hall is the longest-established of all the Society's residential centres. It was opened in January 1955, and in that time, some older Spastics have come and gone. However a strong, communal feeling is the outstanding impression gained by a visitor.

I happened to be calling on a Tuesday, which is always Sports day. It was a lovely day, and there were hard-fought games of football, croquet, bean-bag target, and catch-ball, in progress. I was firmly warned not to go near the croquet players, for their surrounding atmosphere was apt to turn blue—croquet having an explosive effect on one's disposition and language! The footballers gave the goalie, Ted Withecombe, plenty of action, and though he must stay seated on the ground, he managed some wonderful 'saves'.

Visiting Time

The last few weeks have been an open visiting period at Prested Hall. Although it was planned that the daffodils would be the main attraction, the golden blossoms had other ideas, for an early Spring had prematurely forced their blooming. Thus the work of the residents had well-deserved pride of place.

The crafts are set up in a special display, at present in the therapy block. Most of the work on show already carries 'sold' tickets. When there are visitors, one of the residents is on duty to take further orders, for there is a great demand. The delicately woven stoles, with gold and silver thread adding an extra touch of glamour, earn many compliments for their high standard of craftsmanship. The stools and baskets are also favourite 'buys'.

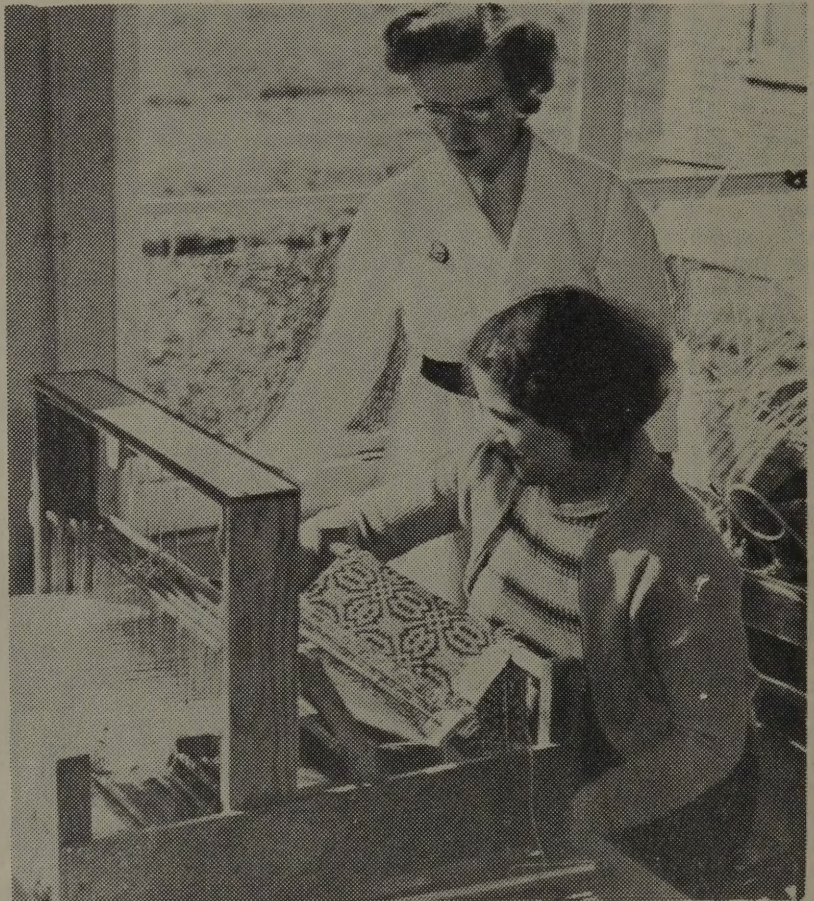
Sun-Terrace

Prested Hall is at its loveliest at the moment. The old country house is in a beautiful wooded setting, with its long sun-terrace overlooking the

stream. At the back of the house, the therapy block, built since the Hall opened, provides facilities for speech therapy and physiotherapy, and many types of equipment for varying work are installed there. A popular feature with the girls is the small kitchen, where they can practise culinary arts.

therapy block, some of the residents are continuing with their education. Loggie Wood, who got his G.C.E. Certificate for English and English Literature last year, takes a small group for arithmetic each week, and other subjects are being studied.

One of the newest residents is Bernard Brett, who is unable to speak. He has a wooden alphabet board on which he points out letters, spelling out words so fast that most people cannot keep up with him. When they get really lost, he takes pity on their slowness and writes the message with his



Courtesy East Anglian Daily Times
One of the beautifully-made scarves in production at Prested Hall.

Quite a lot of electrical tools have been installed, and have had minor adaptations, so that the men residents can overcome their individual difficulties in using them. The lathe has arm rests and supports, so that uncertainly moving hands can operate it with safety.

In addition to their work in the

typewriter.

Many of the residents also help with the household chores, and the residents' committee, which meets monthly, has fairly firm ideas on matters concerning these duties. Bernard forwards an amusing account of the last meeting:— "The monthly meeting of the Prested Hall Residents' Committee

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AND THE N.S.S.

took place on the 30th April. Before the meeting began, a disturbing, if light-hearted, incident took place. A very small minority of the residents attempted to effect a 'coup d'etat'. The Red Flag was sung, or rather what little the persons could remember of that song. The spirit of revolution was quelled on the entrance of the chairman, Mr. Barnes.

"The most important item on the agenda was the question of raising the wages of residents doing work in the centre, such as the washers up, the dining-room cleaners, and the odd job men. This subject gave vent to considerable discussion, but little disagreement.

Oh That Fried Tomato!

"Two residents got wage increases of 50 per cent! If other workers outside Prested Hall hear of this pay award, there may be many heart attacks amongst members of the government, employees, and even some trade union leaders.

"Much interest, and even excitement, was aroused at the news that the exceedingly kind members of Romford Round Table have discovered a vessel suitable to take the residents on a salt-water trip.

"The vexed question of removing fried tomato from the menu was again raised. The chairman pointed out that the committee could only request the housekeeper not to serve fried tomatoes, it could not give directions.

"The meeting concluded with a discussion concerning the arrangements for the great garden fete to be held at Prested Hall in June. The announcement that about 14,000 tickets had been sold, brought warm expressions of gratitude and admiration for the work of the many friends and helpers of the N.S.S. who had sold this great number of tickets".

This narrative, although light-hearted, strongly emphasises the community spirit which binds the residents together, and envelops all their activities. Their individual, physical improvements in the matters of dressing, eating, and coping with their own needs, have been aimed at helping to lighten the task of those about them. At Prested Hall the accent is on communal development, rather than the narrower approach of personal achievement.

from the WARDEN OF PRESTED HALL

J. H. Watson

Now that Prested Hall has been working for two years, a clear picture can be seen showing the degree of improvement possible with adult Spastics. First, there can be no mistaking the all-round improvement of all residents. Second, the amount of improvement with some is quite beyond our original expectations. Third, that even with Spastics between the ages of 35-40, great improvement can be secured.

Speech Improved

Without some kind of clear evidence, it is difficult to present to readers the kind of improvement effected. But speech is definitely improved—and other movements become more free. Physiotherapy, in spite of the distrust with which it is viewed by some parents of Spastics, is the keystone of improvement.

Without an experienced diagnosis, and professional treatment, we cannot even begin. With speech therapy it is the same. As an example of the wrong kind of thinking, the willingness of most to agree with the advantage of speech therapy, while hostile to physiotherapy, is nothing short of deplorable. Therapy is indivisible.

The second point, the degree of

improvement, is not just improvement but the *arrest of neglect*. If we did nothing else at Prested Hall but stop the process of deterioration, much would be accomplished. But here again, the clinical detachment, and the trained hand and eye, are required. Stopping the rot, in conjunction with improvement, adds up to a mighty total.

Early Care

Thirdly, it used to be taken for granted that Spastics, nearing 40 years of age, who had not had any treatment or skilled care previously, could not be expected to improve much. They have improved. We admit that the degree of improvement is greater if adults come along between 20 and 30 years of age. To lose 20 years, during which deterioration can set in like a cancer, is a serious business. Arising out of this, parents would be well advised to seek improvements early, rather than late. The average age at Prested Hall is 33. If it were 25, much more could be done.

The question of the employability of Spastics is a vexed one. Prested Hall takes in such a degree of heavy handicap, that gainful work is out of the question. That we could have five or six employable residents per year



Loggie Wood coaches a small group in arithmetic.

coming to us for treatment, before going to Sherrards or Yateley, is a prospect which would be delightful to all of us.

But the need is not vocal. The need exists; we are sure of it. But such applicants do not come our way. There is a determination to "make do" with a lightly handicapped Spastic in the home. This is a pity, because it is often the lightly handicapped who can most benefit from Prested Hall.

The great body of applicants for Prested Hall consist of heavily handicapped Spastics, whose parents are aged. The need for centres for this group is great. Finer work than the care of these Spastics cannot be imagined. In spite of our Welfare State, the standard of institutional life for the chronic sick is low. Not many of us would like to see members of our own families in such places.

Adults' Needs

Another thing which I believe to be of importance to all who work on behalf of Spastics, is that there is great difficulty in securing solid public support for adults. For children, the springs of loving kindness flow in a steady stream, but adults are not such a ready attraction.

This is a serious situation. It reflects itself in a difficulty to keep staff, and a difficulty in getting local support. And the work on adults is a completely new field; as indeed it is with adults with any kind of handicap.

Readers of the News, and all members of the N.S.S. would help enormously by reminding the general public of the needs of adults. Once we fix an age limit on our affections, we are indeed in a sorry plight. It would be no exaggeration to say that, as the Spastic grows older, the need grows greater.

Finally, what we must remember is that Prested Hall is not the *solution* to a problem. Rather, it is a means whereby we can discover the *extent* of the problem. Two years have taught us that the heavily handicapped adult Spastics' needs can only be met fairly and squarely in a residential centre, and that contrary to all belief, an improvement is possible. This improvement may never lead to them being employed—but a deeper and more full life, a life of less dependence upon others, will be theirs. Prested Hall is doing this work. We are justified in the results.

Coombe Farm

By N.S.S. News Reporter

It is six months since I last visited Coombe Farm, the Society's residential centre for adolescent and young adult Spastics. Much has happened in that time. The workshop, adjoining the therapy block, has been completed, and gradually the intake of Spastics is being built up.

There are 23 young people in residence now, 7 girls and 16 boys. Screening is in progress at present, in order to reach the full complement of 36. Several of the girls' rooms are still empty, awaiting the new arrivals.

At the moment, there is a high proportion of very heavily handicapped Spastics, and it is hoped to ease the burden of the houseparents by accommodating more lightly handicapped people, so that they can help with wheelchair-pushing, and similar jobs.

The completion of the workshop has meant more space is available for recreation in the house itself. The room next to the main common room is now the 'quiet common room', and most of the residents have their typewriters here so that they can write their letters away from the distraction of radio, television, and games. The library is in here too, and this has a constant flow of books on loan from various sources.

Five of the residents are continuing with their education under the supervision of a retired teacher, Mr. Thomas. They are concentrating mainly on English, but there are other subjects in their curriculum. The five spend two hours each day on their studies.

Coombe Farm has now settled down into a routine, the speech therapist, Miss Coxhead, and the remedial gymnast, Mr. Mitchell, have worked out a satisfactory rota for treatment. Although the progress is gradual, there

is much cause for encouragement. One boy, who was without speech, is beginning to talk, and another is walking for the first time, helped by a walk-aid.

The occupational therapist, Miss Coppin, will be joined by another in a short time. Miss Coppin will continue to concentrate on craftwork, and the new instructor will specialise in helping to overcome difficulties with eating, dressing, etc.

In addition to the craftwork the residents produce, weaving, basketry, woodwork—they follow up their educational studies in the workshop. The board with the magnetic letters is a great help to those who find difficulty in either writing or typing.

Local orders are coming in thick and fast for the handiwork produced, stools, baskets, and scarves, being much in demand.

When the residents return from their workshop each day, they come in through the assembly room. This is much in use; the lovely wooden crucifix is set in the window embrasure, ready for the church services which are held there. The second television set occupies a corner, and the room is also used for social occasions.

A recent gift for the big common room with the deep bay window, was a magnificent radiogram presented by the Barnsley Group, for one of the residents lived in that area.

Six months have made a great difference to both Coombe Farm and its residents. The initial strangeness of new surroundings, daily programme, and meeting new people, has gone for them, and a pattern for living has been evolved. The residents are progressing along their various lines of treatment and occupation, and every improvement, be it large or small, indicates that Coombe Farm is fulfilling the purpose for which it came into being.

from the WARDEN OF COOMBE FARM F. W. Bowyer, M.A.

Down the ages there have always been rare souls who see visions, and dream dreams. Many years before Coombe Farm started its life as an adolescent centre for Spastics, visions were seen, and plans were made. A centre was visualised for heavily handicapped young Spastics of average and above intelligence, who would be

able to benefit from, and contribute to, the full life of a community.

Coombe Farm opened its doors in August 1956, and every effort has been made to be faithful to the early visions and dreams which brought the centre into being. Teething troubles, inevitable in a new centre, and the pioneer problems of integrating heavily handi-

capped residents into community life, make nine months far too short a period to expect dramatic results, or to form reliable judgements. In spite of this, real progress towards the creation of a family has taken place, and it is fair to claim that the majority of the residents are finding a fuller, and more worthwhile, existence.

Muscular Control

In the realm of therapy treatment, certain improvements have already been achieved and, even with the more heavily handicapped, a real measure of muscular control has been established. Speech therapy for Spastics will always be desperately slow, but certain residents are now managing a measure of intelligibility which, for them, represents real gain.

For those close to the scene of action, day to day progress is impossible to assess, but the appreciation

by parents of their offsprings' definite improvement, on their return home for short holidays, is a real guarantee of progress, and a tremendous encouragement to all concerned.

In the department of occupational therapy, many activities have been inaugurated, and a various assortment of articles have been made and sold. The problem of residents so heavily handicapped that they cannot cope with any of the normal activities, is not easy to solve, but various experiments are being tried. A magnetic blackboard has proved particularly useful in this direction.

In the mental sphere, various efforts have been launched, and a group of residents are following a daily course in simple English, which is helping them to concentrate, and to think and work tidily.

Adjustment Difficult

Perhaps the greatest problem for the majority of the residents, is to adjust themselves from the enervating warmth of over-protective parents, to the rough-and-tumble of community life; but valiant steps along this difficult path are being taken. Community life, which for so many Spastics represents

their ultimate refuge, though costly and demanding, has many compensations.

Any lessons Coombe Farm can teach in community living to adolescents, will be of tremendous and permanent value, when such a life becomes necessary, and inevitable, in later years. Already, a growing and creative independence is taking shape, and in the chores of daily living, much service is freely rendered, and graciously received.

Humour Needed

A residential centre for the heavily handicapped will always make great demands on the staff. Humour, forbearance, and infinite patience are needed, and any progress Coombe Farm can claim is due to the degree of these qualities which the present staff of therapists and houseparents are bringing to their task.

Coombe Farm, dealing with adolescents, has not, itself, reached adolescent status but is a lusty and noisy infant. Infants are never fearful of mistakes, and Coombe Farm will press on with the goal still far ahead, but determined to serve the Spastic world, and to bring to its own residents a chance to live more abundantly.

The residents of Coombe Farm relax in their sunny common room, the big bay-window overlooking the sweeping lawns and garden. A recent addition to their recreation is a new radiogram with a collection of records.



SHERRARDS

Sherrards, which opened early this year, is a vocational training centre for Spastics. Although catering for adults, it comes under a very different category from Prested Hall or Coombe Farm. The people at Sherrards are less handicapped, and it is hoped that many of them will ultimately find a place in open industry.

Although lightly handicapped, in comparison with the residents of the other two centres, these people at Sherrards, without special training, would find it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain employment.

At present, 24 young Spastic men and women, between the ages of 16 and 25, are resident at Sherrards.

The newly erected workshop has a physiotherapy unit under the same roof. Thus, trainees can receive treatment in close conjunction with the type of work they are following, and the maximum of their potentialities can be realised. For instance, it may be found that a trainee has insufficient movement to meet all the demands of a particular job, but some special exercises, specifically worked out by the physiotherapist, may overcome this difficulty.

Contracts Met

Contracts for components, crates, card racks, etc. have been made locally, for Sherrards is in the centre of a highly industrial area. Although there is no tight time schedule for delivery of these, requirements are being met adequately. This applies also to the printing of tickets, invitation cards, and other orders being received.

The workshop block, as is the case with the other centres, is set away from the house, thus preparing the trainees for the process of 'going to work' each day. Most of the bedroom accommodation in the house is on the first floor, only a few of the trainees being unable to manage the stairs. Most of the ground floor is given over to domestic offices, the big dining-room, the recreation rooms, and the Principal's office.

The dining-room is huge; the grand piano is in there, and the tables are pushed away for the dancing class. The two recreation rooms have slightly different functions. The television set

By N.S.S. News Reporter

(presented by the Liberace fan club, and accepted by the Maestro himself) is in the room used for quieter pursuits, and the room, where the billiard table is installed, is in use as a classroom and games room.

Sherrards Training Centre is the first

from the PRINCIPAL OF SHERRARDS E. L. Knight, Esq.

This new centre, the first of its kind set up by the Society, is accepting the challenge of employment for the adolescent Spastic. It has been planned to provide a bridge between home and

to tackle the training of Spastics for other work than the orthodox craft-work, gardening, etc. This is a new field, and as such, is experimental and exploratory. Only time and experience will discover the most suitable methods for training Spastics, and will indicate the range of work, within the scope of their physical capabilities, for which employment is available.

with men and women in industry and commerce.

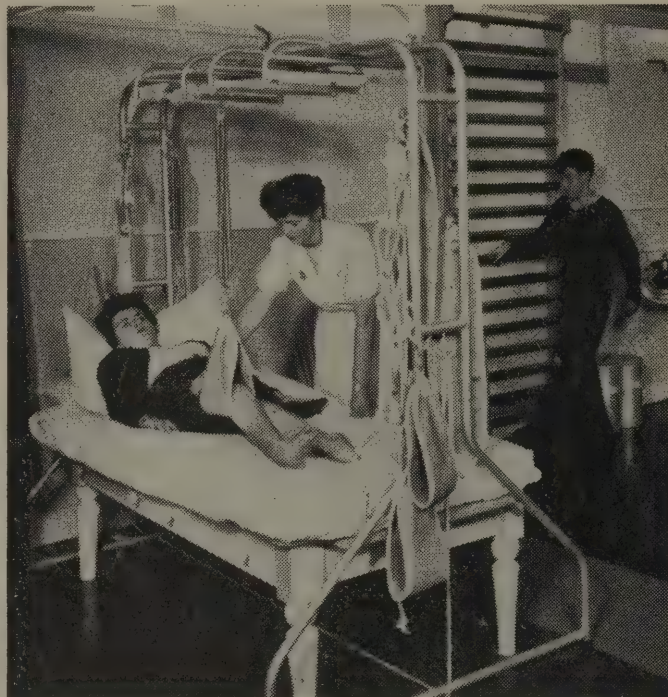
In this endeavour, Sherrards is already operating with a well-equipped workshop covering some 4,000 square feet, in which training is offered in

engineering wood-working, printing, typing, etc., each of these trades being separated into various sections, i.e., machine operating, assembly work, etc. In each department training is given under the instruction of fully qualified instructors, who are carefully selected, having a combination of skill and a sympathetic, yet firm, approach to this particular disability.

The training scheme has the approval of the Ministry of Labour, which takes particular interest in the method of training adopted. For it

must be realised that, as training Spastics is a new venture, both the Society and the Ministry will be gaining experience.

The main effort, as far as a community life such as this is concerned, is to achieve a contented and happy atmosphere, so that trainees, many away from home for the first time, will feel that home has not been completely left behind. This atmosphere, coupled with the training in the workshop, indicates the function of Sherrards; the function that it is to assist young people, who had considered "all was lost, that they were on the scrap heap".



Two Sherrards trainees during their physiotherapy session.

the ordinary world, between school and employment, between treatment and independence.

Sherrards' purpose is to help as many Spastics as possible to find out what they can do, and to train them to do it under normal working conditions. In short, it will train them to hold down a job alongside their fellows, who are not disabled.

This "Training for work" means training to do a full day in the office, at the machine or bench, to overcome the noise and rush, to overcome physical handicaps, to handle tools and machines, and to take a place in work

With the obvious need to confine admission to Sherrards to the more lightly handicapped Spastic, an intensive "vetting" of applicants is carried out. Limited education does not preclude an applicant from gaining admission for, within the centre, classes are held in conjunction with the County Education Authority. Covering the essential subjects, it is hoped to provide the trainee, with a fair all-round knowledge.

Certain periods have been suggested by the Ministry of Labour as the time considered reasonable for training, the initial period being 13 weeks. Some divergence of opinion is felt on this, for it must be appreciated that these young people require quite a time to adjust themselves to this entirely new way of life.

Many aspects, mainly individual, have to be studied in this period; punctuality, interest, concentrating ability, temperament, mobility, and particularly aptitude. With all these in mind, the period of 13 weeks is felt to be extremely short, when considered to embrace specific training. In most cases, however, the Ministry in its wisdom has granted an extension of 13 weeks, which gives the centre an opportunity to achieve a higher standard of efficiency in each trainee.

With the ever-increasing waiting list for this centre a short period of training would ease the applicant rate, but with the desire to succeed in the object of the centre, the longer period is fundamental.

The challenge Sherrards is accepting is a very real one, but indeed not an impossible one, and with the confidence and enthusiasm that already exists, one may consider the "scrap heap" to be a complete fallacy.

Groups Help Adults

Although many Groups are helping adult Spastics individually, there are four which are concentrating their energies on this age-group. They are: North Staffs, Halifax, Widnes, and the Huddersfield Spastic Society.

The North Staffs Group has just purchased its centre, but hopes to use it for the training of school-leaving Spastics as soon as facilities become available. It has 25 adult Spastics on its register; 9 from 17 to 20 years, 9 from 20 to 30 years, 3 from 30 to 40 years, and 4 between 40 and 60 years.

Almost all of these people have received treatment at the clinic the Group runs, and several of them have been supplied with special furniture or aids. Four others have been placed in jobs, and one is undergoing training.

With the co-operation of the local housing authority, the Group has found it possible to place some of the adult Spastics in homes more suited to their handicaps. Also, with the help of the Round Table, it has built ramps for motorised chairs, and assisted Spastics in obtaining recognition by the Ministry of Pensions.

The Halifax and District Group has 7 adults in its area, three of whom are badly handicapped, the others being able to go to work. The age range is between 15 and 33, the older ones being the most badly handicapped.

Since the opening of its premises at the end of last year, the Group has held fortnightly meetings for its older Spastics. Although the aim is mainly social, two out of three of the meetings are devoted to handicrafts. The members thoroughly enjoy themselves, especially the badly handicapped, as it

is their only contact with people like themselves of their own age.

The articles made at these meetings are sold by the Group, and the funds thus raised are used to buy further supplies. The Spastics prefer this, as they wish to be independent. Mrs. D. Clegg, the Hon. Secretary, says that the boys make reading lamps, and the girls wooden holders for plant pots, table mats, and needle cases. She says that any suggestions for other handicrafts would be gratefully received.

At Widnes, the Spastic Fellowship Club was opened in April of 1955. Although it caters mainly for Spastics, other handicapped people are included. Members are aged from 13 to 25.

The club meets once a week, on a Monday, the rent of the room it uses being supplied by the Widnes Civil Defence Welfare Section. The Rotary Club provides transport for the most

In Huddersfield, a unit for adult Spastics operates three half-days a week. Although the Huddersfield Society has 45 adult Spastics on its register, it feels that there must be many more in the area. Its unit was established early in 1954 with co-operation from local authorities, who provided teaching staff, and ambulance transport, where needed.

The lessons include arithmetic, writing, geography, and are interspersed with Greek history, and other interesting subjects.

Among the many crafts produced are soft toys, leatherwork, sea grass stool seats, embroidery rug-making, weaving, and knitting on a knitting machine.

The unit has been officially recognised, and the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary sends many of its patients to it. The Huddersfield Society feels that a serious shortcoming is the lack of a real workshop, for some of its older people could do something towards earning their living, after suitable training.

For the very badly handicapped adults who are bed-fast, the Society has been fortunate in being able to employ a professional welfare officer.

In addition to these four Groups, Croydon, whose childrens' centre is justly famous, has a treatment clinic several times a week for adults, and Southampton organises a weekly club for its adults.



The woodwork section of Sherrards workshop.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

DOMESTIC CONFERENCE

Some time ago a small conference was held in London under this title, which itself conveys the impression of a very homely series of meetings arranged for matrons, and cooks, in order to discuss menus, the prices of foods, and the difficulties of getting and keeping suitable staff.

Now that impression would be wrong, as far as these meetings were concerned. For, although such a conference would be very useful, and will be well worth having on some future occasion, it was not that sort of a conference at all.

It was specifically designed to get together, in one series of meetings, a lot of people who had never met all together before. Members of the Executive Committee, and of the Medical Advisory Committee, Consultants to the centres, and the Heads of those centres, had all known a little about each other at a distance, but had never had a chance for a joint discussion of fundamental problems common to all.

It had been a serious omission, and many people had realised it. But it had not been easy to get a lot of busy people together from all parts of the country; and there had been so many more things to do with an appearance of greater urgency. Finally, however, it had been done. Several hours had been spent in the preliminary business of getting to know each other. And then many hours were spent in discussing some of the physical, psychological, and educational problems which are met in all the Society's centres.

CONCLUSIONS

It would not be easy to summarise this conference, and it is doubtful if it would be very useful to try to do so in these Comments. It is useful, however, to say that a lot of ideas were aired and clarified, and a lot of information was passed from the more, to the less, knowledgeable members present.

It is also useful to say that a lot of names were given bodies, personalities, and mannerisms; a lot of writings were given voices and varying accents and—we think—a lot of good was done to all, and not least to the Society itself.

There can be no doubt about it.

When people have met and talked together, they usually have a lot more respect for each other than before; they appreciate the other point of view far more than if all their contacts had been by letter, or repute. That, of course, is the general rule to which there should be, in theory, an excep-

by Eric Hodgson

tion. In this case, however, the general feeling was that the conference had been so much worth while that we are sure that no one could find an exception. The basis for future work was cleared, and strengthened still more, and another step forward was taken.

LOCAL FUNDS

This is one of the problems that can cause headaches and heartaches for a long time to come, because it is a problem, that does not seem to have an easy "Yes" or "No" for an answer, in every case.

Enthusiasm for a visible local centre is much easier to kindle than for a remote national one. It is easy, too, to maintain that enthusiasm if the child in the next street attends, and shows unmistakable signs of having been given a chance at long last. A simple local centre with its local results, and its band of overworked helpers, will get more support—financial and otherwise—than a more elaborate structure a hundred miles away.

So it is, that continued local appeals, properly organised, raise more money per thousand of the population, than do the intermittent national ones. A local Group should expect to be able to maintain a steady income of £15 or so, per thousand of the population, which is about 3d a head. And it should be able to spend it on useful work helping local Spastics, both young and old.

NO CENTRE

But it just might happen that the town may be fairly small, and there might not be enough Spastics at the time to justify any considerable project; or Spastics may be better looked after than in most other places; or the Group may be waiting for the slow-but-sure co-operation of the local authority. In

those cases, the Group may have a quite substantial bank balance with nothing very definite to spend it on. What then?

IDLE MONEY

Should the money lie idle in the bank, just doing nothing except earn a bit of interest? We are sure that most people would say "Certainly not" to that. But what to do is not always easy to answer. The money has been raised to help Spastics. Not just to help Tom, whose face is always friendly and smiling, but whose speech is always unintelligible; not just to help Mary, with the writhing arms and legs, whose mother always looks so nice, but so worn. No! it has been raised to help any Spastic who needs it.

There may be a Spastics centre in the next town, to which some of your children could go if somebody took the trouble to organise it. Why not help that Group to provide more, for more, so that all your Spastics would get what they need, sooner and cheaper? Why not give some to the national funds, so that more and more national centres can be set up for the more difficult cases?

THE DECISION

Giving money to the next Group, or even to the National Society, just might be the answer to a lot of problems. But it must not be used as an easy way out. It should not—indeed it must not—be used as an excuse for not setting up a local centre, if one is really needed in your area.

You should certainly carefully examine all the local circumstances, and then make your decision as to where your surplus funds would prove to be of greatest benefit. You should turn your eyes inwards, to see clearly just what are your local needs. But you should also turn your eyes outwards, beyond your own boundaries, to see whether your needs can best be met—at least in part—in a greatly enlarged field of vision.

So there are at least four things you can do with your surplus funds. You can sit and watch them grow in the bank; you can start your own centre, just before you feel able to do so; you can help your neighbours to expand their facilities, so as to cover all your needs; or you can send some of them to the Society. Now which is it to be?

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SCHOOLS AND CENTRES

COUNTESS AT BIRKENHEAD

The Countess of Shrewsbury officially opened the Birkenhead School for Spastic Children recently. Although the school has been in operation since January 1956, it had not been officially opened.

The Countess, who was introduced by the Mayor of Birkenhead, said, "We should be much poorer if we sat back and said 'This is the day of the Welfare State, and there is no scope for voluntary practice'". She said that the school proved that the virtue of, and the need for, voluntary service still existed.

PURPOSE IN LIFE

Speaking of the work the school was doing, the Countess said, "You have produced a purpose in life for these children and their families. There are not nearly enough of these types of schools. People like you are the pioneers in this wonderful work."

To one of the school's first pupils, 16-year old Anne Lindsay, fell the honour of presenting a bouquet to the Countess. Anne has left the school now to take up work as a telephonist. The Countess made the charming and spontaneous gesture of taking the roses

from her bouquet and presenting them to the children, when she was shown round the building with the other guests.

There was a celebration tea for the pupils, and the Countess cut a white, iced cake in one of the classrooms. Most of the 42 children who attend the centre regularly were there to participate. 16 of these are under school age, and 12 others also attend ordinary school; 2 attend occupation centres, and 2 special schools.

Some of the mothers told of the obvious improvement in their children. Of one little boy of 11, who is still unable to talk, his mother said, "You'd never believe the progress he has made. He has filled out so much since he came to the school, and they're teaching him to walk."

VOLUNTARY FUNDS

There are two qualified teachers at the Birkenhead School, a physiotherapist, and a speech therapist. The house mother has a band of volunteer helpers who prepare lunches for the children in the school kitchen.

The funds for the upkeep of the school are raised locally, and Dr. G. S.

Swan, President of the Birkenhead Group, said at the opening, "We have achieved a memorable object of which the whole of Birkenhead can be proud. This school represents the ideal partnership which can exist between voluntary organisations and statutory bodies. The money which the people of Birkenhead have given is being wisely and economically spent."

HOLIDAY HOME'S HOUSE-WARMING

East London Group held an informal house-warming for its holiday home, the Arundel Private Hotel, at Westcliff-on-Sea. The management committee was present, and the first two Spastic guests received gifts as mementos of the occasion. Eight year old Christopher Langton, and Peter Graham, who is a trainee at Sherrards, were the lucky recipients. Both were presented with a wrist-watch by the Chairman of the management committee, Mr. H. Savage, J.P.

There is accommodation for about 20 people in the hotel, which overlooks the sea. There is easy access for wheelchairs, and uncertainly moving feet, to the beach, for the footpaths near the hotel are ramped to the different levels. There is a lift to the first floor. Minor adaptations have been made within the house.

GARAGE SPACE

The East London Group has done much of the decorations, and has further plans for the garden at the back of the hotel. There is garage space for holidaymakers who wish to bring their own cars. Mr. Savage said, "We are going to have Spastic people staying here during the summer who have never had a holiday before".

The Arundel Hotel will be open all the year round, and each Spastic will be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The fees for the able-bodied are most reasonable, and Spastics are to be charged at half-rate.

Leyton and Chingford are the two areas which have been selected for an appeals campaign the East London Group is organising. The target for this door-to-door collection is £1,000, which will go to the upkeep of the Arundel Hotel.



The Countess of Shrewsbury cuts the celebration cake after opening Birkenhead School. Also in the picture are the Mayor and Mayoress of Birkenhead, Councillor and Mrs. W. Curley Baker, and students.

LADY BARNETT OPENS LEICESTER CENTRE

Leicester's Spastic centre, which has been functioning since February, was officially opened by Lady Barnett. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers by a small, three-year-old Spastic boy, who was wheeled forward in his chair by his mother. Lady Barnett dubbed him 'one of the most charming bouquet-presenters I have ever had'.

At the opening ceremony, Mrs. E. Woods, who was Leicester Group's first Secretary, paid the first year's pepper-corn rent to Mrs Jack Ward. The centre is in the grounds of her home, and her husband has fixed the rent at one red rose each year.

The Chairman of the Society, Mr. S. Burdett, said, "It is remarkable what support we have had from the ordinary people. Something in the appeals touched many hearts, and with a grant from the National Society, over £10,000 has been raised in less than four years". About £2,500 was spent in equipping the day centre, which will be, he felt, costly to run. One expensive item had been conveying children by taxi, the bill since February being £100.

NATIONAL PLAN

The Director of the N.S.S., Dr. C. P. Stevens, also attended the opening, and told the audience of the importance of work like Leicester's in the national campaign. He said that the National Society had a national plan, which was no less ambitious than the provision everywhere of all the facilities for the treatment, education, and habilitation of all Spastics, to the fullest extent possible.

Dr. Stevens said that although national centres would probably become increasingly important for observation and research, much of the day-

to-day work with individual Spastics would be carried out at centres such as Leicester's.

Concluding, Dr. Stevens congratulated all who had been responsible for the centre, and said, "You can be satisfied that you have helped to give Leicestershire Spastics and their parents, and your own successors, courage to persevere".



Lady Barnett accepted a bouquet from three year old Philip Reid when she officially opened the Leicester centre

PROGRESS IN NORWICH

The Norwich centre, which operates at the Dereham Road Baptist Church Hall, is now giving speech therapy and physiotherapy. It is open three half-days a week, and caters mainly for children under five.

The Norfolk and Norwich Group has about 90 Spastics under the age of 21 on its register. At the Group's annual general meeting the Sheriff of Norwich, Mr. C. H. Sutton, said that there was no doubt that the Group's efforts would be supplemented from local or national funds. He understood it did not get as much help as it would like from local authorities, but he did not wish to comment on that.

In the election of officers, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Appeals

Secretary were re-elected, and the committee now includes two Spastic members.

The Norwich Group has been receiving wide publicity, and other organisations are joining in the cry for further facilities for treatment and education. At a recent meeting a Women's Institute member, Miss R. J. Sampson, after hearing that there was no Government aid, declared, "All the women in this country should demand that the Government give help for Spastics".

MANY HELPERS

Recently added to the Norwich funds were £100, raised by a house-to-house collection. This was organised by a local committee, comprising of representatives of Toc H, the parish church, G.F.S., Red Cross, Methodist Guild, and Round Table. The collection made among the crowd attending the Norwich City v Brentford football match amounted to nearly £57.

NORTH LONDON CENTRE OPENS

The North London Group has opened a centre in a small hall adjoining the Middle Lane Methodist Church in Hornsey. At present the centre is open three days a week, and five children are receiving treatment.

Physiotherapy treatment is being provided at the clinic, which is regarded by the Group as a temporary measure. It hopes to establish a permanent full-time centre, and so far £3,000 has been raised towards the cost. It is estimated that at least £7,000 is required.

Transport is provided, mainly in a van which has been given to the Group by a St. Pancras firm of tobacco manufacturers. Friends of the Group also help with transport.

PROJECTS SECRETARY TAKES UP DUTIES

The N.S.S. has appointed Mrs. Constance Clifton as Projects Secretary. Formerly a Children's Officer in Lincoln, Mrs. Clifton helped last year to set up the first children's homes in Northern Iraq.

The work of the Projects Secretary entails constant travelling between the N.S.S. centres from Cardiff to Cumberland, from Tonbridge to Bradford.

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EMPLOYMENT

Queen Elizabeth's Training College

Queen Elizabeth's Training College for the Disabled has been established since 1934, when the first 16 trainees were admitted to the Cripples Training College, as it was then called. Now the college has accommodation for 196 trainees, who come from all over the country.

Wherever possible, the trainees leave to be absorbed into open industry, having been recommended for training initially by their local Disablement Resettlement Officers. Both local authorities and the Ministry of Labour sponsor the trainees, who have been found difficult to place in employment without special training.

WAR-TIME GROWTH

The college almost forms a small town in itself. A sprawling country-house is its nucleus, its stables and outbuildings housing the workshops. For the gardeners under training, there are about 40 acres of land on which to learn. The major growth at Queen Elizabeth's occurred during the war, when many more disabled people were needed for employment. It was then that many of the additional workshops were built, and also the hostel, which accommodates many of the men trainees.

Springbok House, where the 47 girl trainees live, was built more recently—in 1950, the main costs of building being met by a gift from the South African Union. This modern hostel, with its airy windows and gay colour scheme, has several two-bedded rooms, in addition to the ten-bedded dormitories. The lounge is equipped with a television set, and in another small lounge one of the girls who is attached to the needlecraft department of Queen Elizabeth's sheltered industry, does her work.

BEST PUPIL

The class for shorthand and typing is held in Springbok House, in a large room which can be converted to a games room. The instructor takes pride in the fact that his best pupil for 1955 was a girl with Spastic hemiplegia

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whose speed, notwithstanding the fact that she could only use one hand, was remarkable.

NOT ALL WORK

The trainees' life in the college is by no means all work. There is a recreation hall where films are shown twice a week, and fortnightly dances are held. An unusual facility for a college such as this is the small bar in the hall, where the trainees can forgather in the evenings at their own 'local'! A most popular feature is a 'potted sports evening', when competitors make the rounds of a variety of indoor sports, and the evening's all-rounder is awarded the trophy.

The age-range of admission varies a great deal, for a proportion of the trainees are accident cases, polios, and T.B.'s, who, at any age, can suddenly find that they are no longer suited to their chosen occupation, and accordingly, are sent for special training.

YOUNG TRAINEES

However, some come straight from school, when Youth Settlement Officers feel that they will need training before

THE DISABLED AT WORK—5

entering employment. These youngsters continue with their education, while the staff watch their progress before assessing their potentialities for any particular work.

There are 17 different courses at the college, each with its own instructor. The course finally selected for each trainee is governed by many factors. Initially, the D.R.O. who recommended training, suggested a course for which there would be employment available locally. For instance, there is no point in training a gardener who would be seeking employment in a highly industrial area.

FLEXIBILITY

With the D.R.O.'s suggestion in mind, the Training Officer and his staff assess the new trainee. If, however, the course is found to be impractical, either as regards physical ability or temperamental outlook, some other course is followed. Always the ideal of flexibility in choosing a course is maintained.

This flexibility is applied to the length of the training period. Theoretically, each course is for a specified



The main building of Queen Elizabeth's. Workshops, formerly outbuildings, are at the rear.

number of months—the longest being a year, the shortest three months—and through the course three tests are given, at regular intervals. However, if it is felt that any trainee needs more time to qualify, consideration is given to his individual needs. The tests are given in liaison with technical experts from the Ministry of Labour.

WIDE RANGE

The courses cover a wide range—from general office routine to engineering, from dressmaking to spray-painting, or gardening. The numbers of trainees in each course vary according to the demands of their local employment availability, and the current trend. For instance, the radio course is in popular demand, but there are only one or two in some of the other classes. When necessary, equipment is adapted for individual handicaps, and when a trainee who is thus equipped leaves the college, he or she takes the aid to the new job.

At present, 13 Spastics are being trained at Queen Elizabeth's, and are scattered throughout the courses. For these people, as has been the case for the hundreds of other Spastics who have passed through Queen Elizabeth's, there is an excellent chance that they will be absorbed into open employment. Although these Spastics, in comparison with others, are lightly handicapped, without special training it is almost impossible to find employment.

SHELTERED INDUSTRIES

The progress made by the trainees is reported throughout their course to their D.R.O.'s, and a few weeks before qualifying, the machinery can be set in motion to find suitable employment. Often a trainee leaves the college on a Saturday, to report to a new job on the following Monday.

Although the college works in close co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and local authorities, it is a voluntary body, relying on donations. It is administered by an executive committee appointed by the Governors. In addition to the constant flow of trainees, there are two sheltered industries to which severely handicapped people are permanently attached. These are decorative pottery, and fine needlework.

The annual fete helps to contribute to funds, as do B.B.C. appeals, and

other money-raising ventures. With about 5,000 successfully employed trainees to their credit since 1934, Queen Elizabeth's Training College



One of the girls in the shorthand and typing class

can be justly proud of their fine record of service to handicapped people.

Not content with this record, there are also plans afoot for future development to provide more sheltered workshop accommodation, and further training schemes in the locality. These will follow the fine tradition that Queen Elizabeth's has built up since it came into being 23 years ago.

NSS Xmas Card Scheme

The N.S.S. Employment Committee welcomed representatives from Sher-rards and Coombe Farm centres, and from Groups including Central Middlesex, Croydon, Reading, Bristol, Corby and Southampton. They had been invited to watch a demonstration of the Adana Printing Machine, which will be used for the N.S.S. Christmas Card Scheme.

The machine being used, although originally hand-operated, has been motorised to ensure that each card printed will receive the same amount of pressure.

The Employment Committee plans that 100,000 cards will be printed, to be sold at 6d each. The Spastic operating the machine will receive £1 for every 250 cards. If the scheme proves successful, a graduated system of payment is envisaged. The scheme is, as yet, experimental, but the Employment Committee, and the visiting representatives, have high hopes of the future (see letter on page 3).

Chairman of the Employment Committee, Mr. W. M. C. Hargreaves, says of the scheme that its success will be dependant upon the enthusiasm of the people who have volunteered to be responsible for supervision, and will overcome individual snags. He stresses that a great deal of work has produced the present plan which will make it possible for home-bound Spastics to earn money, and he stresses that his committee welcomes any suggestion for home employment.

THE AMESBURY MANUFACTURING CO.

have pleasure in announcing that they will be exhibiting at the
7th World Conference of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples,
Central Hall, Westminster, July 22nd—26th.

Examples from their wide range of appliances will be on show and a representative of the Company will be present throughout the Conference to give demonstrations.

The exhibits will include the well-known Models S, and M, chairs fitted with sun canopy and larger wheels for outdoor use, U.S.C. chair, Car-seat chair for Spastics, Play Table and Walking Aids fitted for scissors-gait cases, etc.

AMESBURY products, designed with a long and intimate professional knowledge, suit the majority of cases, but can be adapted to meet the requirements of cases needing special features.

Requests to incorporate amendments to basic designs or to produce entirely new units, based on instructions or suggestions from doctors, physiotherapists, parents, or those in charge of patients, are welcomed.

SOUTH MILL ROAD, AMESBURY, WILTS.

Telephone 2517

The Feminine Touch

THE JOAN STEELE STORY

How would you tackle the brand new job of being a housewife if you were a Spastic bride? The endless bending, stooping, kneeling, and the running about; if you couldn't walk without a stick, and kneeling was impossible, and if your house was to meet your own exacting standards?

This was the challenge that Joan Steele of Barnstaple, in Devon, our last month's cover girl, overcame.

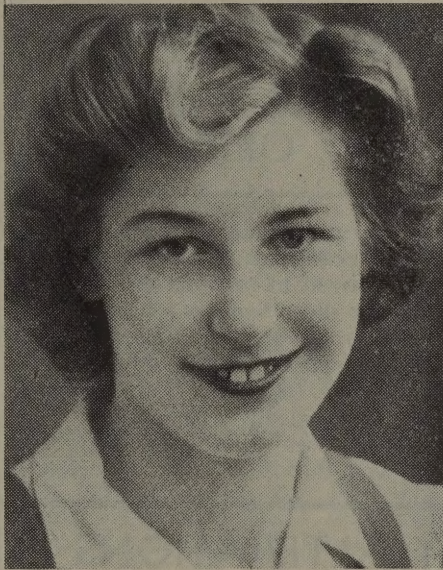
Her parents realised, when she was about three, that their little daughter was showing no inclination to walk. In the two years that followed, they visited the orthopaedic hospital regularly, and a wonderful victory was achieved, when at five, she first managed to stand against a table.

This made a tremendous difference to her outlook generally, and as her two sisters were attending school, Joan clamoured to go too; a difficult process, for she had to be wheeled to school, and then carried into class.

Joan attended Sunday School, and her father feels that this developed her great faith to overcome her disability. In recalling her early efforts at walking he said that whenever she fell over, (and that happened frequently), she would accuse him of pushing her—so

determined was she not to admit the overwhelming difficulty of walking.

At seven, Joan had an operation on her legs, which were put in plaster. Although this was a setback, she



Joan Steele, soon after she started her first job.

carried on valiantly with her schooling. She stayed at school until she was four-

teen, and then after a time at home, went to St. Loys, where she was trained as a switchboard operator.

The job she obtained had to be terminated in 1947, owing to chilblains. This may seem to be a minor ailment, but in her case, was almost incapacitating. Joan was able to go to St. Loys again, this time to be trained as a dressmaker, and it was here that she met her future husband.

George Steele was at St. Loys as a result of a motor cycle accident. He met Joan one day as she was hobbling down a corridor with her stick. She slipped, and he saved her from falling. George says, "When we met, her big smile attracted me right from the beginning. I proposed to her, and married her inside four months. A smile will cover up a lot of disabilities."

They were married in the college chapel, and their wedding guests were other disabled students.

Continuing the story of their marriage, George said, "I was warned when I first met her that I would probably have to do all the housework, and that life would be hell. But she had other ideas". A sympathetic council provided the Steeles with a new prefab, without stairs.

The house was fairly remote, so that there were no neighbours for Joan to call on if she met any snags. Household chores acted as a challenge to further progress. Before she married, Joan could not kneel, but gradually she evolved her own methods; to use a chair to pull herself up after scrubbing and polishing, propping herself against the sink to cope with the weekly wash.

Her husband says of her, "Her motto is, 'Where there's a will etc'. and I am constantly being surprised at the way she overcomes or tackles any new problem that comes along".

Now the Steeles, and their three children, have reached Australia, confident of what the future will bring. They think that Australia will provide new opportunities, and believe that the better climate will help Joan to walk without her stick.

George Steele says of the past, "In our eight years of marriage she has been as much a loving wife and mother as any man can expect, I am very grateful that God should have made us meet".



A happy photo of the Steele family, taken in their pre-fab at Barnstaple, a year ago. The children, from left to right, are Penny, Audrey and Tommy.

NORTH REGION NOTES

SHEFFIELD

Sheffield and District Spastics Society is to provide, what is believed to be, the first Short-Stay Home in the country. The Home is a country house, in about four acres of ground, situated in very pleasant surroundings outside the city boundary.

Spastic children, in need of a three or four weeks holiday, will be cared for by trained nurses. The Home will be able initially to accommodate about 20 children, but it is possible in the future, that additional accommodation will be added.

GOOLE

At the annual general meeting of the Goole and District Spastics Association the Secretary, Mr. H. H. Acaster, paid tribute to the enthusiasm of the President, Mrs. E. Smaje, who had, during the past year, addressed more than 20 clubs and associations, and who had never spared herself working for the welfare of Spastics.

The President, in acknowledging the

support of the hardworking officials and committee, said there was still much to be done. The swimming club, formed with the co-operation of the Goole Swimming Club, had proved beneficial. So had the percussion band,

From
Roland Whyte
North Regional
Officer

facilities for which had been granted by the local education authority. Soon it was hoped to provide special equipment for those Spastics who needed it.

The Treasurer, Mr. E. Brant, presented his report, which showed a most satisfactory balance of almost £400. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer were all re-elected, together with Mrs. Purvis as Assistant Secretary.

The committee comprise: Mrs. Lazenby, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Whitehead, Mr. J. H. Goddard and Mr. C. Cooke.

PONTEFRACT

Fashion parades held in the Assembly Rooms, Pontefract, added £50 to the Pontefract and District Spastics Association's funds. Over 900 people attended, and the parade was opened by the Mayoress, Mrs. G. Dickinson, accompanied by the Mayor, Councillor A. Ward.

URMSTON

A number of public meetings, within its boundaries, are to be held by the Group, in order to inform people in the surrounding areas, of the work being done at the Urmston Centre, where Spastic children attend twice a week for physiotherapy treatment.

I attended recently the first of such meetings, held at Irlam, and spoke about Spastics, and introduced our film "The Door to Freedom". Although the attendance was not as large as had been hoped, the talk and film show were well received. Mr. R. Dickin, Chairman, described the work being done by his Group.

Those present at the meeting were: Councillor Winskill, J.P. (in the Chair), Mrs. Winskill, Mrs. J. T. Ralph, wife of the Chairman of Urmston U.D.C., and President of the Group; Councillor and Mrs. Sanderson of the Irlam U.D.C., Mr. R. E. Salthouse, Secretary of the Group, and Mr. R. K. Taylor, Treasurer of the Group.

BINGLEY

One of the aims of the Myrtle Park School Parent-Teacher Association is to consider together subjects which are of interest to all who have to deal with children. Therefore I was pleased to be able to give a talk on the aims and work of our Society to its members. A question-time was held afterwards, during which many pertinent questions were asked, which is ample proof of the interest which can be fostered by a talk of this nature.

DEWSBURY

A well-attended meeting marked the occasion of the annual general meeting of the Dewsbury and District Spastics

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GROUP SECRETARY ALTERATIONS

(WALLASEY SPASTIC ASSOCIATION)

Hon. Secretary,
Mrs. D. Abbott,
3, Bayswater Road,
Wallasey, Cheshire.

(BOLLINGTON, MACCLESFIELD & DISTRICT)

Secretary,
Mrs. H. J. Thurlow,
Meadow Cottage,
Kerridge, Nr. Macclesfield,
Cheshire.

(NORTH-WEST LONDON GROUP)

Secretary,
Mrs. E. Costello,
89/90, Wilton Road,
Victoria, S.W.1.

(BRIDGEWATER & DISTRICT FRIENDS OF SPASTICS)

Secretary,
Mrs. M. Bowerman,
22, Dunkery Road,
Bridgwater,
Somerset

(BEDFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH OF N.S.S.)

Hon. Secretary,
Miss A. E. Kidder,
Flat 5,
67, Bromham Road,
Bedford.

(BRADFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH OF N.S.S.)

Secretary,
Mr. A. Clark,
12, Wrose Road,
Shipley, Yorks.

(LUTON & DISTRICT SPASTICS GROUP)

Secretary,
Mrs. S. Ponsford,
98, Beechwood Road,
Luton, Beds.

(BRADFORD & DISTRICT BRANCH OF N.S.S.)

Secretary,
Miss P. Wilkinson,
4, St. Matthew's Road,
Bankfoot, Bradford, 5.

(BARNESLEY & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF THE N.S.S.)

Secretary,
G. H. Walton,
8, Burton Road, Barnsley, Yorks.

(OXFORD PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF N.S.S.)

This Group is to be known as
OXFORDSHIRE SPASTICS WELFARE
SOCIETY.

Society recently. His Worship, the Mayor of Dewsbury, Councillor J. Savage, J.P. presided, and referred to the successful year's work carried out by the Group. After the showing of "The Door to Freedom" film, preceded by a short talk given by myself, the audience asked many searching questions.

WARRINGTON

A collection made at Warrington Rugby League Club's home game with Bradford Northern, resulted in a donation of £27 10s. towards Warrington and District Group's funds.

CUMBERLAND, WESTMORLAND & FURNESS

A new branch of this Group has been inaugurated at Egremont, and from recent efforts in Gretna, a cheque for £74 was handed over to President, Sir Robert Chance.

HAWKSWORTH HALL

An orchestral concert was given by the Scarborough and District Youth Orchestra, in aid of the Spastic children at Hawksworth Hall, recently.

Mr. Hardy Bonner, the conductor, who founded the orchestra in 1955, says that the children are some of the keenest musicians he has ever met.

SOUTH EAST REGION NOTES

REGIONAL OFFICE

Although another month has passed, the setting up of a regional office has yet to take place. As many readers will appreciate, the moving into new premises can be a little difficult, but

From
Simon Langley
South East Regional
Officer

it is hoped that the office will be in running order by mid-June, when I will be able to give full service to the region.

MAIDSTONE AREA GROUP

The Maidstone Area Group's annual general meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Hugh Botting. This Group has had a very successful year, resulting in an agreeable balance sheet, as well as many accomplishments in welfare, social activities, and appeals. One item alone is worthy of

commendation, the amount of £77 12s. received for silver paper and milk bottle tops, and the work entailed in this effort will be appreciated.

The members of the committee were unanimously re-elected, and Mrs. R. Earl's work as Hon. Secretary, was especially praised. The Group has long been aiming at having its own headquarters and centre, and it now seems as though this may be realised in the near future.

FOLKESTONE SPASTICS GROUP

The scheme to give a week's holiday to 24 Spastics and their parents has been fulfilled, through the kindness and co-operation of Mr. Johnson, who has put his hotel at their disposal for a fortnight. The Folkestone Group have undoubtedly made tremendous efforts to meet a long-felt need. With Commander C. Neate in charge, it is hoped that this idea can be enlarged upon, and so become one of Folkestone's contributions to the welfare of Spastics and their parents.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS HOBBIES EXHIBITION

Many interested enquiries were forthcoming, as a result of the small stand which the Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge Round Table so kindly permitted the N.S.S. to erect, at their 7th Annual Hobbies Exhibition.

All the exhibits shown were made at the Thomas Delarue School, and so well did they compare with the competitive entries, that the scholars are preparing to enter the various classes at next year's exhibition.

A much larger stand is available, showing the activities of the N.S.S. If sufficient bookings can be made to warrant the cost of cartage, a tour of this display will be organised.

THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

The Summer term opened with an increase of nine pupils, bringing the total to 40. It is hoped to enlarge on this number in the future, provided more accommodation can be made available. The ideal solution, of course, would be for another building to be erected in the grounds, but this will be entirely dependant upon available funds.



These heavily disguised gentlemen were responsible for raising about £300 for the Bromley Group. Watched by a record crowd of about 6,000 people, this gallant band of ferocious footballers, won out against the onslaught of the opposition. The Bromley Round Table team was opposing the Chislehurst-Sidcup Round Table, in their second annual old-fashioned football match. The Bromley side won by fair means or foul (mostly foul).

NATIONAL SPASTICS SOCIETY CENTRES

NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CENTRES

THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Dene Park, Tonbridge, Kent.
Telephone: Tonbridge 3859.

Principal:
H. B. Davies Esq., B.Sc. (Econ.)
Chairman of the Board of Governors:
Douglas Delarue Esq., J.P.

Secondary Education for Spastics over 13 years.
Accommodation: 45.

IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.
Telephone: Holmrook 42.

Principal:
A. Lubran, Esq., F.R.S.A., M.R.S.T.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
Dr. T. Dowell.

Education for Spastics reputed to be below average intelligence.
Accommodation: 45.

THE "SHERRARDS" TRAINING CENTRE

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.
Telephone: Welwyn 2125.

Principal:
E. L. Knight, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
The Hon. Mrs. David Bowes-Lyon.

Vocational Training Centre for young adult Spastics.
Accommodation: 25.

THE CRAIG-Y-PARC SCHOOL

Pentyrch, Nr. Cardiff.
Telephone: Pentyrch 397.

Headmistress:
Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
Miss M. B. Jowett, M.B.E.

Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.
Accommodation: 35.

HAWKSWORTH HALL

Guiseley, Nr. Bradford, Yorks.
Telephone: Menstone 114.

Headmistress:
Miss I. Spink, Dipl.Ed.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
J. Hicks, Esq.

Assessment Centre for Spastics reputed to be below average intelligence.
Accommodation: 32.

PRESTED HALL

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.
Telephone: Kelvedon 482.

Warden:
J. H. Watson, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
Miss Mary Ruck, R.R.C.

Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 25 to 40 years.
Accommodation: 31.

THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington, Nr. Stamford.
Telephone: Duddington 212.

Headmaster:
R. A. Pedder, Esq.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
Eric Smith, Esq.

Primary Education for Spastics between 5 and 16 years.
Accommodation: 42. 8 Day Pupils.

COOMBE FARM RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.

Warden:
F. W. Bowyer, Esq., M.A.
Chairman of the Management Committee:
W. Noel-Jordan, Esq.

Residential Centre for Spastics aged from 16 to 25 years.
Accommodation: 33.

HOLIDAY HOME

The East London Group's Holiday Home — The Arundel Private Hotel — 23. The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea, Telephone: Southend 476351.

LOCAL CENTRES AND CLINICS

In close co-operation with Local Authorities and/or Hospital Management Committees, the following Groups provide or assist special schools and/or treatment centres:

Coventry	Portsmouth
Hull	Reading
Northampton	Southend-on-Sea
Pontefract	Swindon

Working independently, the following Groups have set up special schools with treatment centres:

Birkenhead	Newcastle
Bolton	Plymouth

Operating entirely by voluntary contributions, the following Groups have treatment centres with or without nursery classes. Some of these Centres operate every day, others only part-time:

Bollington and Macclesfield	Liverpool
Bournemouth	Luton
Bridgwater	Norwich
Brighton	Sale
Croydon	South West Surrey
Epping	Stockport
Gillingham	Swansea
Grimsby	Wycombe and District
Ipswich	York
Urmston	

The following Groups have, what might be termed, special occupation centres and, in some cases, treatment is available together with speech therapy:

Bristol	Leicester
Cheltenham	Southampton
Crewe	Warrington

What might be termed Welfare Departments, mainly designed to assist older Spastics, are operated by the following:

North Stafford (Stoke)	Huddersfield
Halifax	Spastics Society
	Widnes